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of the world as it exists today. This alone throws darkness rather than light on the problem. The equipment that is needed is a combination of the results of a whole group of sciences, of which the chief are geology, archæology, prehistoric and historic climatology, and anthropology. Indeed, in many of these fields the results are still to be worked out before they can be applied to the problem of human evolution. The field is properly one for the co-operation of a group of specialists working from a common point of view. Such a group of specialists working co-operatively might within the limits of a generation lay the foundation for a social science worthy of the name.

C. C. C.

Burma Under British Rule and Before. By JOHN NISBET. London: Constable & Co., 1902. 2 vols, 8vo, pp. 912, with maps.

THIS is a book of rare quality. It affords far the best insight into Burmese life past and present that has been or is likely to be given. The writer has had unique opportunities. No one sees more of the life of the people in a British dependency than the conservator of forests. Mr. Nisbet held this position in Burma and at a period during which the transition from the old order to the new was beginning to be evidenced. There was an opportunity, therefore, of presenting what has been as well as what is and what is to be. Fortunately in this position of vantage there has been a man with a genius for observation and a power of direct depiction. At first the reader meets a bare date-strung outline of Burmese history, which is informing, but not entertaining; but we soon find that we have fallen in with a new Herodotus—a man with an endless curiosity and a rare sense of the values of men and things.

The first volume and three chapters at the beginning of the second volume are devoted to political and economic topics. A very interesting account is given of British relations to Burma in the early days and of the causes leading to intervention in Lower Burma and ultimately to expansion into Upper Burma. Prominent as a factor in the latter movement was the distrust of French diplomacy, and Upper Burma furnishes one more illustration of how at least the history of expansion repeats itself. Following an account of the pacification of Burma after 1886 are several chapters of the most valuable character.

We may divide them into two groups. The first group gives a description of the old order — the system of administration, of military organization, of taxation and land tenure, of the ancient laws, and of the dispensing of justice. An account of the political rôle played by the later kings and their wives concludes this section. In the second group we have the story of British administration and the economic development of the country. No one can read this part of the narrative without reaching a sense of the greatness of the work which is being done there. Mr. Nisbet is not a blind optimist, and he is much too sympathetic with the past and the romance which has hung around golden Burma not to feel deep regrets at the breaking down of customs which many a British-Indian civilian would wish to preserve. But the advance which is clothing the land with forest where the thoughtless native has been denuding it, which is expanding the zones of cultivation and gathering the land together by a network of railways, which is giving to the Burmese women an opportunity to emancipate herself from cruel customs and religious restrictions and to develop the abilities which she possesses in greater measure than her fortunate husband, the advance which has rid the country of the *dacoit* and which insures to each his own is, as Mr. Nisbet shows, too great a gain to be offset by the loss which comes from vanishing idyls.

In the opening chapters of the second volume is to be found a lucid discussion of the much-discussed Burmese-Yunnan railway, in which Mr. Nisbet presents the strong reasons for developing the internal communications of the country rather than launching into the certain expenses and uncertain returns of a transfrontier line. A valuable chapter on Burmese forest wealth and the methods whereby the teak timber supply in being assured brings the economic discussions to a close. For the rest—and it is much the greater part—the second volume presents a series of studies on Buddhism, on the Burmese priesthood, on beliefs and superstitious habits and customs, on the traits of Burmese character, on the social system, on the amusements of the people, on their language and literature—of which Mr. Nisbet gives some delightful examples—and on their folklore, their art, and their science. This category by no means exhausts the resources of the two encyclopædic volumes. The book is, in fact, a treasure house and will remain for all time a classic on Burma. It is only too rarely that we meet one who has had the opportunity and the faculty to observe the shapes of a Burmese priest's vestments, the ingredients of Shan tattooing ink, the ceremonials of a young priest's

initiation, or a Burmese belle's toilet, as well as the potentialities of teak or the social and political results in one more case of the meeting and greeting of East and West.

W. G. S. ADAMS.

The Administration of Dependencies: A Study of the Evolution of the Federal Empire, with special reference to American Colonial Problems. By ALPHEUS H. SNOW. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1902. 8vo, pp. xi+619.

AN extended review of Mr. Snow's book is not in place in an economic journal. For, though the administration of dependencies is a problem which has large economic aspects, the treatment of the subject in this case has been limited to the legal and political side of the question; and, the inquiry being so wide, one can hardly regret the limitation.

Mr. Snow's work is in its method historical. He has set himself to ascertain the views of the authors of the constitution as to the principles on which the administration of dependencies should rest, and this in turn has involved anterior questions dealing with the original relations of the colonies to Great Britain. This problem investigated—and it occupies the greater part of the volume—a review is made of the development during the nineteenth century in Europe, the British empire, and America in the administration of dependencies. A concluding chapter, entitled "Imperial Obligations," draws the threads of the argument together, sets forth the relations of the United States to her dependencies as justified, in Mr. Snow's view, by the interpretation of the constitution, and presents the responsibilities which recent developments have placed upon the American people.

Mr. Snow's volume is of no little interest or value. "Bishop Stubbs and the Charters" would, we believe, rise in protest against the view of English administration expressed in the opening of the second chapter. Further, the conclusion of the book itself as a legal and historical deduction will sooner or later be challenged. But the line of proof is ably worked out and the conclusion from a practical point of view as to the relative position of the president and of Congress in regard to the dependencies is necessary.

The later chapters are especially worthy of note. Mr. Snow, while stating the theoretical and legal basis, has grasped firmly the actual principles on which the British empire of today is administered, and